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National
Agricultural
Library

U.S. Department
of Agriculture
Beltsville, MD
20705

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

Volume 14
Number 1/2

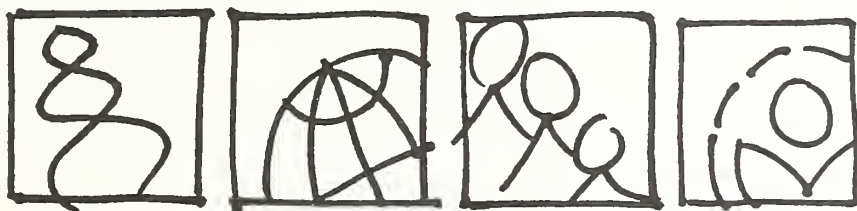
Jan/Feb 1988

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NAL'S INFORMATION CENTER APPROACH

By ROBYN C.
FRANK

Head, Informa-
tion Centers
Branch



staff concentrate their efforts on strengthening the NAL collection, developing information products, coordinating outreach activities,

The National Agricultural Library has established 12 specialized information centers to provide enhanced services to its current clientele as well as to develop new service relationships with the public and private sectors. NAL took this approach to respond to recommendations of the Interagency Panel on the NAL ("Blue Ribbon Panel") in 1982, which included concerns about the growing volume of agricultural information and the need for indepth coverage of specific subjects. The purpose of the centers is to focus or concentrate activities in the areas of great interest to the Department of Agriculture, the agricultural community throughout the Nation, and the public. By making one or more persons responsible for a single subject area, NAL is able to take a proactive approach that involves a heavy emphasis on outreach and networking activities.

Information centers have a diverse audience. While agricultural researchers have been a traditional primary audience for NAL, information center clientele also include educators, consumers, and the private sector to a greater degree. Factors affecting the determination of subjects covered by information centers include: (1) Congressional mandate; (2) priorities within USDA; (3) availability of subject expertise on the NAL staff; and (4) financial support and interest by business and professional organizations in agriculture and related fields.

Each center has a coordinator who is responsible for planning and carrying out the center's activities. In addition to providing reference services, information center

and establishing dissemination networks.

Case Study:

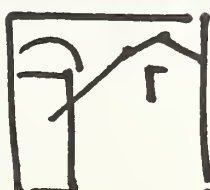
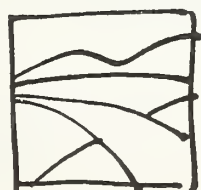
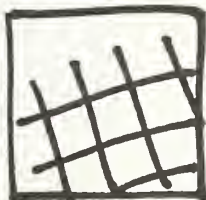
Food and Nutrition Information Center

This highly successful information center serves as a model for new ones. The Food and Nutrition Service and NAL in 1971 founded FNIC as a national repository of educational and training materials for use by persons in USDA's Child Nutrition Program (school lunch, child care, etc.). The 1977 Farm Bill established FNIC as a resource for State education agencies and other interested persons.

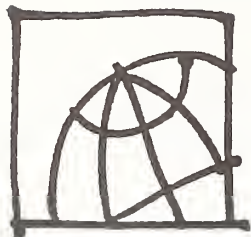
FNIC serves many types of users including educators, researchers, school food service personnel, cooperative extension agents, and consumers. It can help a school administrator implementing a program of nutrition education or a food service manager interested in effective techniques for supervising personnel. Reference services are provided by a staff of registered dietitians and nutritionists.

The Center maintains an extensive collection of audiovisual materials (e.g., films, videocassettes, posters, games) that deal with human nutrition, food service management, and food science. FNIC and the other information centers also have an active exhibits program. The staff are often asked to speak and exhibit at national meetings. Each in-

formation center also has or will have a table top exhibit structure to loan to requestors. (See FNIC, p. 6, col. 1)



NAL INFORMATION CENTER SCOPE NOTES



Agricultural Trade & Marketing



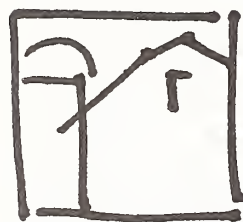
photo: D. Starr.

MARY LASSANYI

transportation of agricultural products; exports, promoting high value commodities, food marketing and the U.S. food industry; trends and policies in the world economy; farm exports and the farm economy; country marketing profiles; global trade developments, countertrade; economic and trade developments in the Third World/Developing Countries.

Staff will also respond to questions relating to the economics of urbanization and urban policies in the Developing Countries.

Coordinator: Mary Lassanyi, 344-3704.



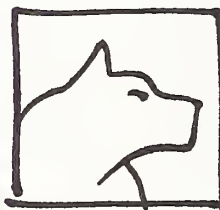
Alternative Farming Systems

Subject coverage: Organic farming or gardening, which includes such related practices as sustainable, low-input or regenerative agriculture, and biodynamic or biological agriculture or French intensive gardening. All of these imply reduction of external inputs of chemicals and energy. Conservation tillage, or minimum or no-tillage, and other cultiva-

tion practices such as intercropping, crop rotations, especially with legumes, and using green manures or cover crops and animal manures are also covered.

Staff can respond to questions regarding soil and water pollution from agriculture, small farms and farming, and strategies for farm diversification, including potential new crops. Questions related to industrial crops should be directed to the Critical Agricultural Materials Information Center.

Coordinator: Jayne MacLean, 344-3704.



Animal Welfare

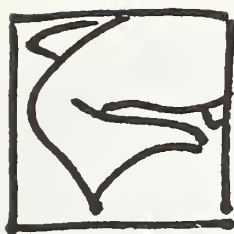


photo: D. Starr.

JEAN LARSON

Subject coverage: Animal care and handling as well as housing and caging; training guides and manuals for animal care personnel; ethical issues involving animals; legislation and regulation; animal rights; testing alternatives for drugs and cosmetics or toxicology studies; veterinary questions; laboratory animals; animal behavior.

Coordinator: Jean Larson, 344-3704.



Aquaculture



photo: D. Starr.

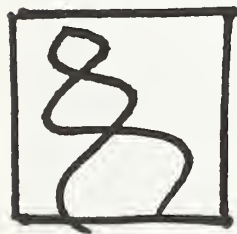
DEBORAH HANFMAN

Subject Coverage: Culture of aquatic plants and animals in freshwater, brackish, and marine environments. Examples include: catfish farming; oyster culture; freshwater prawn culture; tilapia culture; salmon ranching; and trout farming. Staff of the center also handle requests on eel culture; Spirulina farming; and aquatic snail and turtle cultivation, but not terrestrial culture. The "fisheries industry" (such as ocean fishing harvests) is not con-

sidered a part of the AIC's coverage. Staff will also respond to questions relating to animal parasitology--i.e., parasitic worms, protozoans, insects of animals and man; insect pests of animals and man.

Patrons may also use AquaRef, an expert or advisory system containing aquaculture information on computer, and consult vertical files.

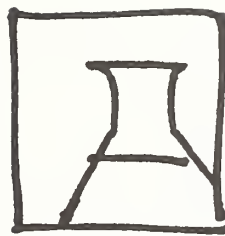
Coordinator: Deborah Hanfman, 344-3704.



Biotechnology

Subject coverage: Genetic engineering--recombinant DNA; tissue culture--plant and animal; single cell protein; immobilized enzymes; biomass for energy or chemicals; embryo transplants--plant and animal; fermentation process; legislation and regulations; risk assessment of the release of genetically engineered organisms; growth hormones; transgenic animals; detoxification using microbes.

Coordinator: Jean Larson, 344-3704.



Critical Agricultural Materials

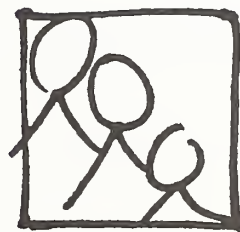


photo: D. Starr.

JERRY RAFATS

Subject coverage: New crops or new uses for old crops, including forest products and especially crops from which "natural rubber" can be produced. Special emphasis on the following: Chinese Tallow Tree (*Sapium sebiferum*); Crambe (*Crambe abyssinica*); Guayule (*Parthenium argentatum*); Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*); Bladderpod (*Lesquerella*); Lunaria (*Lunaria annua*); Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*); Rape-seed (*Brassica juncea*); Stokes Aster (*Stokesia*); and Veronia (*Veronia anthelmintica*).

Coordinator: Jerry Rafats, 344-3454.

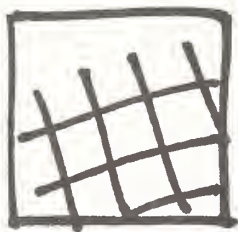


Family

Subject coverage: Families through the lifecycle: marital relationship; childbearing families and families with young children; families with elementary school-age children; families with adolescents; empty nest/launching families; families in retirement; social environment; family economics education; extension education/adult education (i.e., extension methodology, program planning, implementation, evaluation); extension home economics, 4-H, or community development.

NAL approaches home economics as a unified field. Several of the established information centers feature such home economics sub-specialties as food and nutrition, fiber and textiles, and rural family topics.

Coordinator: Kathleen Hayes, 344-3719.



Fiber & Textiles



photo: D. Starr.

KATHLEEN HAYES

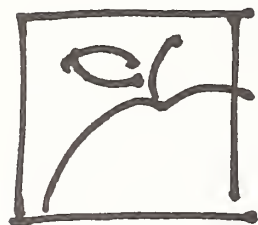
Subject coverage: Natural and man-made fibers; textiles and apparel; fashion design and merchandizing; home furnishings; geotextiles. Staff responds to questions on the processing or end uses of fibers. Agricultural fiber production questions should be referred to general reference.

Library users may also access the Fiber File, USDA/ARS research on soft fiber crops from early 1900's to approximately 1975. Gen-

erally considered the most complete record of information in existence, this collection includes research on flax, ramie, jute, hemp, kenaf, and others. The Fiber File includes unprocessed manuscript materials, slides and photographs, and more than 300 specimens of fibers.

NAL also holds another Fiber File, USDA/ARS research on animal fibers, probably from early 1900's to approximately 1975. This information is not organized and is presently in storage. Consult the coordinator for access.

Coordinator: Kathleen Hayes, 344-3719.



Food & Nutrition

Subject coverage: Human nutrition research and education (print and nonprint materials dealing with the biochemistry and physiology of human nutrition, diet and diet-related diseases, food habits, food composition, food supply in relation to public health, and nutrition education); food service management (print and nonprint materials dealing with personnel training, food service operation and management, factual data on child nutrition and other food service programs, and general management); and food technology: (print and nonprint materials dealing with the con-

version of primary products into food for man, food safety, and consumer protection).

The FNIC subfile of AGRICOLA contains approximately 41,000 citations with abstracts or extracts. FNIC also houses over 150 software packages in the areas of dietary analysis, food service, and nutrition education, available for onsite preview and demonstration.



photo: D. Starr.

JAMES KREBS-SMITH

Coordinator: James Krebs-Smith, 344-3719.



Food Irradiation



photo: D. Starr.

CAROLE SHORE

Subject coverage: Use of ionizing radiation (x-rays, electron beams and gamma rays) to process foods. Print and audio-visual aids are available in the following areas: food science, nutrition, safety and wholesomeness, labeling, economics, commercialization of the process, consumerism, dosimetry, insect disinfestation, history, federal regulations and hearings. The Center also answers requests for information on the ef-

fects of nuclear fallout on the food supply. Food safety issues are addressed, not clean-up activities.

Major areas not covered by the Center include: the National Bureau of Standard's guidelines for irradiation facilities; transportation of nuclear fuels; OSHA regulations; medical sterilization of supplies and drugs; listing of com-

panies involved or interested in irradiation; and effects of radiation on humans or animals other than the ingestion of irradiated foods.

Coordinator: Carole Shore, 344-3719.

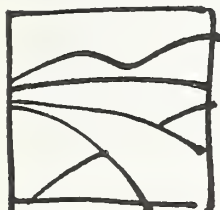
Acting Coordinator: James Krebs-Smith, 344-3719



Horticulture

Subject coverage: Technical horticultural or botanical questions; economic botany; wild plants of possible use; herbs, bonsai; floriculture (for sources of seeds and plants, contact Henry Gilbert).

Coordinator: Jayne MacLean, 344-3704.



Rural Information Center



photo: D. Starr.

PATRICIA JOHN

Subject coverage: Economic competitiveness (management and marketing education, profitability of rural business, including agriculture and natural resource-based enterprises); economic development (diversification, development of new sources of employment and income); local government (local government/officials, community facilities and services); rural communities (coping with transition, family support networks, im-

pact of political, economic and social change); community leadership (leadership development); and natural resources (how they affect the quality of urban and rural life, assessment and development of public policy).

The Rural Information Center (RIC) is a joint project of USDA's Extension Service and the National Agricultural Library. RIC combines the technical, subject-matter exper-

tise of Extension with NAL resources to provide information and referral services to local government officials.

Coordinator: Patricia John, 344-3719.

THE LOGO DESIGNER

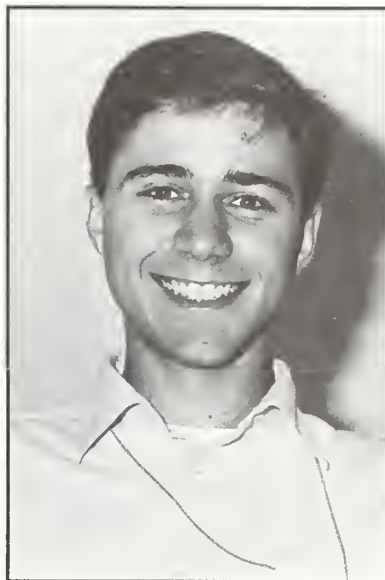



photo: J. Swab

RICHARD BARNES

Giving the twelve information centers distinctive, representative, but very simple and uncomplicated logos was Richard Barnes' concept for the integrated set of logo designs. With a few flowing lines and strokes of the pen, he has suggested the subjects of the centers and framed them in a set of free-hand drawings. Two, Food Irradiation and Rural, he adapted from material specified by staff, but the others spring from his imagination. Recogni-

tion of the subjects of some of the logos brings surprise, and then a sense of appropriateness, for it is the tail of the fish that expresses motion, it is the apple since Genesis that symbolizes food. Mr. Barnes has also assigned each logo its own color, and he has incorporated them (color and logo) as identifiers in the unified designs for a series of planned stationery, publications, information products and exhibit structures.

Mr. Barnes does his artistic work in the Design Division of USDA's Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, where he began working full-time in January 1987 after cooperative work with USDA for two summers. He graduated from East Carolina University in December 1986 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in communication arts with a concentration in graphic design and a minor in print making. He spent his senior year of high school at the Heidelberg American High School in Germany, where he participated in a cooperative workstudy program with the University of Maryland. In this program he worked in a printshop and gained much valuable experience relating to printing processes and publication design.

Mr. Barnes is also a runner, having run the U.S. Marine Corps Marathon in D.C. twice and the New York Marathon once. In this he is participating in the family sport, since both of his parents have completed 4 marathons. Mr. Barnes' other hobby is playing the guitar. 

(FNIC, from p. 1)

FNIC also is a national demonstration center for food and nutrition microcomputer software with over 130 programs on topics such as diet analysis and nutrition education available for review.

In addition, FNIC contributes the food and human nutrition portion of the NAL's AGRICOLA database which includes abstracts. "Pathfinders," specialized bibliographies or information sheets, developed in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University, list appropriate information resources for consumers, educators, professionals, and others on a wide variety of topics.

Over the years FNIC has published several selected bibliographies. As a result of two of the publications, FNIC has become the national depository of all training and education materials developed by USDA's Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Nutrition Education and Training Program.

FNIC works closely with the Food and Nutrition Service, Human Nutrition Information Service, and Extension Service of USDA, as well as with various agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the March of Dimes, the Society for Nutrition Education, and the American Dietetic Association.

The Center has established dissemination networks with State representatives of the American School Food Service Association, State nutrition educators for WIC, State Coordinators of the Nutrition Education and Training Program, and State school nurse liaisons.

In 1986, FNIC received the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award for a "well-planned, comprehensive public relations program which resulted in many promotional items of lasting value, a large increase in lending requests and an increase in the use of technical and reference services of the Information Center."



ALIN'S NEW LOOK

Agricultural Libraries Information Notes inaugurates the use of desktop publishing to format the newsletter with this issue. We are using *Ventura* software which is installed on an IBM AT. It is outputting to a Hewlett Packard LaserJet series II printer. We will still be putting in photographs and other visual materials, such as the column headers, manually, but may scan them in when scanning equipment and more sophisticated printing become available for our use.

Along with visual changes, we expect to make greater use of signed or credited articles, news notes, photographic or visual materials, and column features. As we develop our use of *Ventura* capabilities we plan to add new features or improve existing ones. We would appreciate hearing from our readers about additions or improvements which would make the newsletter more useful or informative.

We are especially looking for news from outside NAL. We desire to include feature articles on libraries and staff, projects, cooperative activities, innovations, and news of interest to the agricultural information community. We would also like to include in our regular columns important items which we have missed, but our readers point out to us. For example, new serials in our subject fields are listed in a regular "New Serials" column. Bringing important omissions to the attention of the editor will not only help other readers, but may also alert NAL about their existence if they have not already been entered into our records. Besides additions to our regular bibliographic columns, we would welcome them for other columns such as "Agriculture Datebook," which lists important meetings in agriculture and related sciences, and also in the library and information fields.

We would be interested in including photographs with feature articles contributed by persons outside NAL, and along with them a photograph of the author and a short biographical profile similar to those on NAL staff published in issues featuring their articles.

Please contact the *ALIN* editor, Joseph Swab, to offer contributions or make suggestions. Call him at (301) 344-3778 or write to:

National Agricultural Library
ALIN Editor, Room 203
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

To add to the *ALIN* mailing list, please write to the above address. For corrections or deletions to the mailing list, please send the address label from a recent issue or a photocopy of it to us with the changes indicated

We look forward to hearing from our readers!



photo: J. Swab

The designers present the first versions of the new information centers logos and models of the exhibit structures to the center coordinators and NAL managers November 19: (l-r) Eva Cuevas, designer of the exhibit structures, George Baka, Chief of the USDA Design Division, and Richard Barnes, designer of the logos.



VISITORS

SOVIET DELEGATION



photo: D. Starr.

Joseph Howard and Yevgeniy Sizenko on the tour of the NAL stacks.

First Deputy Chairman Yevgeniy Sizenko of the USSR GOSAGROPROM led a delegation from the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture on a visit to the National Agricultural Library on January 26, 1988. In Washington for a meeting of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Committee, the Soviets toured the facilities of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and partook of lunch at Pizza Hut and MacDonald's

before their arrival at NAL for demonstrations of new technologies in the agricultural information field. While at NAL the delegation saw Carole Shore explain the operation and uses of the *Pork Industry Handbook* on laserdisk, and watched with interest as Lee Decker brought up citations to

Russian literature on crossbreeding in the AGRICOLA database, using the Silver Platter CD-ROM. The group was curious about the selection of the *Pork Industry Handbook* as the first work to be tested at NAL for full text access using laser technology, but nodded with smiling understanding when Director Joe Howard confessed that the project had been conceived under the tenure of Secretary of Agriculture John Block, a pork producer. Following the technology demonstrations, the entourage made a brief visit to the stacks, where they surveyed NAL's extensive collection and examined compact shelving installations before returning to Washington for the signing of the protocol of the meeting of the Eighth Session of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Committee.

--Sarah E. Thomas



photo: D. Starr.

EGYPTIAN NAL

Planning for the Egyptian National Agricultural Library continued when Mr. Ali Nashat, Secretary General for Finance, Administration, Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt, visited NAL on January 20. In the photograph above, Mr. Nashat (l), discusses implementation plans with NAL Director, Joseph Howard (c), and Mark Abbott (r), Trilateral Programs Leader in USDA's Office of International Cooperation & Development (OICD).

In this cooperative planning effort NAL and OICD are jointly advising the Egyptian officials and library administrators responsible for creating the new library.

In February Jerry Walker, Special Foreign Currency Leader, OICD, met with Egyptian and U. S. Agency for International Development (AID) officials in Cairo. They completed a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) which includes AID funding for the Egyptian National Agricultural Library portion of the overall development project.



photo: D. Starr.

Carole Shore demonstrates NAL's new technology applications to the Soviet delegation surrounding Mr. Sizenko in the center of the first row. In her hands Ms. Shore holds a laserdisk containing full text and graphic materials of the *Pork Industry Handbook* and 12 other publications.



photo: D. Starr.

Bille Hougart (back to camera) addresses the Maryland delegation in the exhibits area of the NAL lobby.



Special Collections pamphlet cover.

MARYLAND DELEGATION

On January 22, 1988, a delegation of officials from the State of Maryland and the office of Governor Schaefer toured the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), met with various BARC management personnel and research institute directors, and visited the National Agricultural Library. Dr. Waldemar Klassen, Beltsville Area Director of the Agricultural Research Service, conducted the tour and meetings, and NAL Director, Joseph H. Howard, greeted the delegation at NAL. Since the group had a particular interest in aquaculture, Bille Hougart, Aquaculture Program Manager, Cooperative State Research Service, briefed the delegation on USDA's aquaculture programs. NAL's Aquaculture Information Center staff provided information on its expert system, AquaRef, and other aquaculture resources of NAL.

BOOK REVIEW

Wellisch, Hans. H. *Indexing: A Basic Reading List*. Washington, D.C.: American Society of Indexers, 1988. \$8.00.

This important annotated bibliography is intended to assist newcomers to the field of indexing who want to get some basic advice on the technical aspects of compiling an index. Topics covered include textbooks, standards, indexing techniques, computer-aided indexing, filing, typography and layout, book indexing, special formats and subjects, periodical indexing, freelancing and training. Hans Wellisch is a recognized authority in the field of indexing. This book will be a key starting point to anyone wanting to index effectively.

--American Society of Indexers

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PAMPHLET NOW AVAILABLE

The National Agricultural Library's Special Collections Program is pleased to make available the new Special Collections pamphlet entitled, "Our Agricultural Heritage."

This 18-page, full color pamphlet describes the collections and services administered and provided by the Special Collections unit of the Library. Featured are the Rare Books and Manuscripts, the Nursery and Seed Trade Catalogs, the Photographs, the Slides and Audio-Visuals, and the Maps and Posters Collections. The Special Collections Reading Room and its facilities and use are also described.

The National Agricultural Library welcomes additions to these significant collections which are constantly being enhanced by donations from both organizations and individuals. Readers who know of important collections of research or historical materials concerning agriculture and related subjects available for possible donation, please contact Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head, Special Collections, at the address or phone number below.

Special Collections is a unit of the Special Services Branch of NAL. This Branch is one of four in the Public Services Division of the Library. For more information or services, or to obtain a copy of the pamphlet, contact:

*National Agricultural Library
Special Collections, Room 1402
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

or call (301) 344-3876. 

PROPOSED NAL BUDGET FOR FY 1989

Within the President's budget, the National Agricultural Library has been included for an increase of \$1,405,000, which provides \$450,000 for a Technology Transfer Information Center; \$450,000 for the Rural Information Center; \$200,000 for the Federal/Land-Grant Network System; \$124,000 to annualize the FY 1988 pay costs and \$181,000 to provide for general increased operating expenses for library materials, data base services, and equipment.

- The increase for a Technology Transfer Information Center will allow NAL, jointly with the Agricultural Research Service and the Extension Service, to establish a structured center, with an integrated information dissemination system for facilitating and expediting technology transfer.
- The Rural Information Center was initiated on a limited basis in FY 1987 to improve information service to rural America. In FY 1989, NAL with the Extension Service proposes to expand its support for this Center as part of the Secretary's Rural Revitalization Initiative. This will provide a link between rural information users and the information resources to which we have access, including those located outside NAL.
- Based on cooperative projects now in effect, the additional funds for Federal/Land-Grant Networking will be used to develop and implement a plan to serve as a framework for coordinating and expanding cooperative efforts. NAL will provide the infrastructure for coordination and support for network meetings, and strengthen cooperative development of network services and the collections on which they are based. Cooperative research and development programs in information technology will be encouraged.
- The increase for general operating expenses is to assist NAL with extraordinary increases in publication costs. In addition, as advanced technology in information sciences is implemented, NAL is experiencing an increase in related costs for equipment and data base usage.

Congressional hearings are scheduled to be held shortly.
--Paul Bennett

NEW VIDEOTAPE ON NAL AVAILABLE

The National Agricultural Library is pleased to announce the release of a new videotape describing the Library, its collections, and services. This 16-minute videotape, entitled, "The National Agricultural Library--For Your Information," replaces the previous tape "The Information Cycle" produced in the late 1970s.

It is the Library's intention in the future to produce additional videotapes providing more indepth looks at specific

programs and services of the Library. Several of these are now in the production or planning stages.

The tape has been produced in the 1/2" VHS, 1/2" Beta, and 3/4" U-Matic formats for use in the U.S. or with U.S. equipment. It has also been produced in the 1/2" VHS format recorded in the signals required for use with equipment produced in Europe or other parts of the world.

Land-grant University libraries will receive a copy of the video-tape for their retention.

The National Agricultural Library will loan copies of the tape in any of these formats. To borrow a copy, please provide the following information:

- Complete name and mailing address.
- Intended audience & institutional affiliation, if applicable.
- Length of time needed.
- Format required.

and contact:

*NAL Videotape, Lending Branch
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

Copies of the tape will also be available for purchase from the Associates of the National Agricultural Library. As soon as pricing and ordering information are available, an announcement will be made in *ALIN*. However, those who wish to request ordering information may write to:

*Associates of NAL, Inc.
National Agricultural Library, Room 203
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

For additional information contact:

*Elizabeth Goldberg
Special Services Branch
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

or call (301) 344-3875.

DIRECTORY OF LIBRARIANS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR INFORMATION

The staff of Washington State University Libraries is preparing a 2nd edition of the Directory of Librarians in International Development. The directory includes librarians who have consulted in a developing country in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, or Latin America. Copies of the updated directory will be available from WSU. If you are interested in being considered for inclusion in the directory, please request a copy of the directory questionnaire from Elaine Brekke, Owen Science & Engineering Library, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-3200. Tel: (509) 335-4181. Please respond by April 15, 1988.



STAFF UPDATE

ARBORETUM LIBRARY & DC REFERENCE CENTER STAFF CHANGES

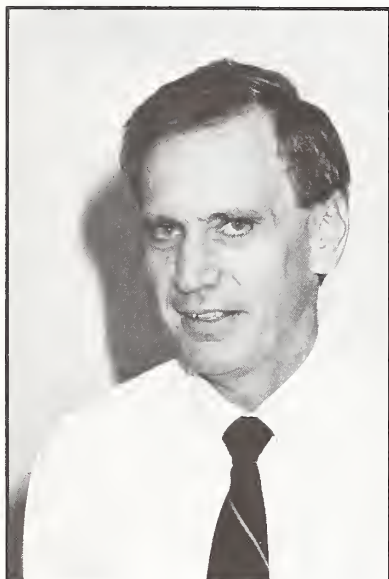


photo: D. Starr.

HENRY GILBERT

Henry Gilbert, reference librarian assigned to the Special Services Branch of NAL, is now heading the Arboretum Library. He spends at least one day a week there and two in reference at the main library in Beltsville where he also serves as curator of the Nursery & Seed Trade Catalogs (NSTC) collection. In recent months he has also been serving as a back-up reference librarian at the D.C. Reference Center (DCRC) up to two days per week.

Mr. Gilbert came to NAL in 1969 and has served as a reference librarian since then. He had a brief period as Arboretum Librarian in the early 1970s and took over responsibility for the NSTC collection in 1974. He earned his MLS at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1969, and holds a B.S. in entomology from the University of Georgia, and an Associates degree in Horticulture from the State University of New York. Before coming to NAL, Mr. Gilbert was a quarantine inspector for USDA at the port of New York.

Robert Anderson, library technician was recently reassigned from the Lending Branch to the Special Services Branch. He is working 2 days per week at the Arboretum library providing information desk and telephone reference support, some database searching, services related to collection maintenance including development of holdings lists, and

liaison between the Arboretum Library, its library committee, and NAL's Cataloging and Acquisitions /Serials Branches in Beltsville. DCRC users also know him, since he provided similar support there for most of 1987. His duties in Beltsville the remaining 3 days per week include assisting with implementation of the software demonstration center, and giving new technology demonstrations.

Mr. Anderson has been a technician with NAL since 1983. He is currently earning an MLS from Pratt Institute where he has completed over half of the requirements for the degree which he expects to complete in 1988. He has a BA in History and English and an AA in business.

Jesse Brown, was promoted October 26, to the GS-7 technician position at the D.C. Reference Center. Mr. Brown came to NAL from the U.S. Post Office Department as a GS-3 technician in 1969 and has worked his way through a variety of technician positions in the NAL MailRoom, Lending and Reference Branches (or their predecessors) and has provided technician support at various times for the Arboretum Library and the former D.C. Branch.

Mr. Brown is responsible for technical support at the DCRC information desk, maintaining the reference and



photo: D. Starr.

ROBERT ANDERSON



photo: J. Swab.

DCRC staff (l-r) Jesse Brown, Doreen Duff, Susan Whitmore, Rodney Johnson, and Elvena Proctor.



photo: J. Swab.

JESSE BROWN

serials display collections, and microcomputer liaison with the Information Systems Division in Beltsville.

The remaining DCRC staff consists at present of Susan Whitmore, head of DCRC [see ALIN, 13 (10/11): 10-11, Oct/Nov 87]; Doreen Duff, reference librarian [see ALIN, 12(8): 13, Aug 86]; Elvena Proctor, Secretary; and Rodney Johnson, student aid.



INFO CENTERS HEAD



photo: D. Starr.

ROBYN FRANK

The Head of the Information Centers Branch of NAL, Robyn Frank, often expresses her excitement and enthusiasm while efficiently and persistently pursuing the goals of the various centers. "I really enjoy doing it. There are many high expectations. The job is always challenging, full of new opportunities to explore and develop. I've been at NAL now for 15 years and never thought of going anywhere else," are a few of the comments she makes about her job.

Mrs. Frank came to NAL in January 1973 on a contract to automate the Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) database and develop a thesaurus for the FNIC subfile of AGRICOLA, and after an employment freeze of 5 months was over, converted to NAL employment. In 1978, she became the director of FNIC, and assumed responsibility for all of the centers as head of the new branch in 1987.

Before coming to NAL, Mrs. Frank held positions as Assistant Project Director for the U.S. Office of Education's Educational Reference Center, American Society for Information Science, 1971-73, and Research Assistant, Research Information Center, Public Schools of D.C., 1969-71. She earned her B.S. in Home Economics in 1967, and the M.L.S.

in Library and Information Services in 1972, both at the University of Maryland.

The frequent author of journal articles and published bibliographies, her most recent work is the chapter "Agricultural Information Systems and Services," in the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, Volume 22, 1987, published on behalf of the American Society for Information Science by Elsevier.

A wife and mother, Mrs. Frank is married to Stephen Frank, an engineer working as a transportation planner for the port of Baltimore. They reside in Fulton, Maryland, with their daughters Evelyn, 10, and Ingrid, 8.



ALIN'S PHOTOGRAPHER

Daniel Starr, a Technical Information Specialist in the Information Systems Division (ISD) has been serving as the photographer for ALIN for the last few years. He does the photography for ALIN on an "as available" basis through the generous cooperation of ISD management staff. Since his name appeared with the editor's names on the last page, his photos have not been credited during the cut and paste stage of ALIN production: those days are over.



photo: J. Swab.

DANIEL STARR

A graduate of East Carolina University with a major in English Literature and a minor in music Mr. Starr came to NAL in January 1979 as a technician employed by the Forest Service (FS) to provide document delivery services. As his work expanded to include literature searches and reference work, he was converted to Technical Information Specialist in 1981. In May 1985 he transferred from FS to NAL to his present position working with the AGRICOLA database, electronic mail systems, microcomputers, and various systems. He is particularly interested in NAL's actual and potential new technology applications.

Outside of work Mr. Starr is a cyclist and participates in competitions (he also managed a bicycle shop for a few years); has contributed photos to "Spokes" magazine; enjoys cross country skiing; is a drummer and has played popular, rock and roll, and jazz music; and enjoys cooking.

Mr. Starr's wife, Lori, works in NAL's Indexing Branch as an indexer. She is a Technical Information Specialist with an M.S. in Horticulture. (See photo on last page).





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These new employees were introduced at a meeting of library management staff on January 26: (l-r) Kerry Brant, Acquisitions/Serials, cooperative agreement library science graduate assistantship from the University of Maryland; Peter Depuydt, Cataloging, cooperative agreement library science graduate assistantship, Univ. Md; Ellen Nollman, Cataloging, cataloger (Asian languages); Lynn Booth, Lending, student, U. Md; James Tigner, Lending, library technician; Lori Starr, Indexing, technical information specialist/indexer.

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